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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

A dream you won't soon forget

The Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival returns for its 25th year with A Midsummer Night's Dream PAGE 17

Geroy Simon calls it quits on 15-year career

The former B.C. Lion walks away with three Grey Cup titles PAGE 36

Cops killed in Moncton shooting

A hunt got underway after an armed man shot a number of people, including RCMP officers, police say PAGE 12

CROWDFUNDING IS SO IN RIGHT NOW

FASHION DESIGNERS ARE TURNING TO THE CROWD TO BOOST THEIR BRAND'S BOTTOM LINE PAGE 20

Teachers to vote on full strike after pay ruling

BCTF. Labour Relations Board upholds the province's docking of wages by 10 per cent

Graduation and exams for British Columbia's half a million public-school students are in jeopardy as the teachers' union threatens to launch a full-blown strike.

The BC Teachers' Federation is asking the province's more than 40,000 teachers to vote on escalating job action next Monday and Tuesday, with the potential for a full strike starting as early as June 16.

"The time has come to apply more pressure to the negotiating table," said union president Jim Iker on Wednesday. "To get a fair deal and better supports for students, it's time to exert the maximum pressure possible."

The threat was levelled immediately after the B.C. Labour Relations Board ruled the provincial government was within its right to dock teachers' pay by 10 per cent.

A third week of rotating strikes will also commence next week, Iker said, following the pattern of each district being disrupted for one day a week.

The union is legally obligated to give B.C. families three days notice before a full-blown walk out.

Iker said the union executive decided to hold the strike vote even before the ruling from the Labour Relations Board came down.

The B.C. Public School Employers' Association's lawyer told the board it had the authority to cut pay since teachers were picking and choosing which duties to perform.

On Tuesday, the union dropped its wage demand by one percentage point, bringing the request into the range of 12 per cent over four years. The employer has been offering 7.3 per cent over six years.

The employer's chief negotiator, Peter Cameron, called the wage reduction "disappointing."

"When you factor all the way through, it's still many, many times greater than the current level of settlements elsewhere," Cameron said, adding he's losing optimism a deal can be negotiated before the end of the school year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

About two dozen students rally against both sides of the ongoing B.C. public-school labour dispute outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on Wednesday, as only incremental moves were made in contract negotiations. TAMSYN BURGMANN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Caution

Warning out over possible 'bad batch' of heroin

A rash of possible heroin overdoses has Vancouver police urging drug users to use the city's safe injection site Insite, while health-care workers wonder if a bad batch of the highly addictive drug could be circulating.

Sgt. Randy Fincham said officers responded to seven reports of suspected heroin overdoses in the Downtown Eastside on Tuesday, which prompted them to issue a warning asking drug users to be "extremely cautious" and to visit Insite if they plan on using heroin in case something goes wrong.

Five of the suspected overdoses reportedly happened at Insite, Vancouver's first legal safe injection site, where people can inject drugs under the supervision of medical personnel.

Vancouver Coastal Health spokeswoman Anna Marie D'Angelo said the agency was not aware of Tuesday's suspected heroin overdoses.

They did, however, see an increase in overdoses last week, which she said indicates that there could be a bad batch of heroin being sold on Vancouver streets.

"There is some kind of heroin that is causing an increased number of overdoses above the usual number," she said. "It could be contaminated with another drug or it could just be increased potency. We don't know."

No one died as a result of those overdoses, she said.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Justice Minister Peter MacKay leaves a news conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. The Conservative government has introduced legislation to criminalize the purchase of sexual services. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local group to challenge prostitution bill in court

'Step backwards.'
New legislation outlaws purchase of sex, takes aim at pimps

Pivot Legal Society says it will seek to constitutionally challenge the federal government's new legislation on Canada's sex trade.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay tabled the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act in the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon.

The bill criminalizes purchasing sex, communicating for the purpose of selling sex, living off the avails of prostitution and the advertising of sexual services. Sex-trade workers who look to sell services in the vicinity of children also face being arrested.

"An unbelievable step backwards, absolute tragic day for sex workers across Canada," said Kerry Porth, Pivot chair and a former sex trade worker.

The issue of selling sexual services around children remains especially murky as it becomes hard to determine where kids can be reasonably be expected, Porth says. If a sex-trade worker had children, then they would not be able to operate out of their home, forcing them into more secluded areas.

"Sex workers will experience violence, exploitation and will die," Porth continued. "More sex workers will die in the three to five years it takes to bring this to the Supreme Court."

Pivot joined the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative, and Sex Workers United Against Violence to present research on Tuesday that showed criminalizing the client but not sex-trade workers has a negligible effect on sex workers' safety.

Dr. Kate Shannon, who helped conduct the research, echoed Porth's comments.

"This, on the heels of our evidence yesterday, definitely seems like a slam to evidence as well as human rights," she said.

By criminalizing clients, Shannon says sex-trade workers will go to greater lengths to conceal their clients and go away from high traffic areas.

The federal government defended its move in a press conference.

"We are going after the individuals who are exploiting (sex trade workers) and forcing them to be reliant on this trade," said MacKay.

The Vancouver Rape Relief Shelter was tepid in their praise of the legislation and remains worried not enough will be done to protect women.

"We're very cautious. We do think it is useful to have a law that explicitly prohibits purchasing of sex," said Hilla Kerner, a spokesperson for the shelter.

Kerner said she was concerned not enough men would face charges for trying to purchase sexual services, with only a few being made an example of.

NICK WELLS/FOR METRO

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Luxury homes. Hobbit house saved by (rich) new neighbours

The hobbit house is getting a makeover and some well-heeled new neighbours.

Vancouver's beloved James Residence on King Edward Avenue will be saved, restored and rehabilitated after city council approved a development of 20 townhomes on the property at a public hearing Tuesday night.

Local developer David Mooney bought the house with plans to save it if extra density was granted for the desirable location near Cambie Street and the Canada Line.

But those who fancy a move to the Shire will have to have heavy change purses, as the "executive" townhomes will start selling at $1.2 million.

Naturally, not everyone is impressed by the development.

Traffic is already terrible during peak hours around Cambie, wrote two residents opposed to the project.

The hobbit house on King Edward Avenue. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS/METRO FILE

Others questioned how tearing down "perfectly sound" single-family homes to make way for luxury townhomes would help alleviate the city's problems surrounding affordable housing and homelessness.

"People with that kind of money don't need to have houses torn down to accommodate them," wrote Dorothy Watts. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Court of Appeal. Mandatory minimum sentencing challenged

An appeal of Canada's mandatory minimum sentences is set to hit B.C.'s Court of Appeal on Thursday and Friday, as a judge examines the concept of minimum sentencing.

The case centres around the sentencing of Joseph Ryan Lloyd, who was convicted of three counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking back in September 2013.

In January, a B.C. provincial court judge ruled the prospect of minimum sentencing as unconstitutional. Crown Counsel appealed that decision.

Minimum sentences were brought in as part of the omnibus crime bill created by the federal government.

"This is the first time we're looking at these types of sentences for drug sentences," said Raji Mangat, a counsel for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, an intervener in the case.

While Mangat admits she wasn't that surprised to see the January ruling challenged, she says the association firmly believes the concept of minimum sentencing is unconstitutional. NICK WELLS/FOR METRO

Butt bins 'not about condoning smoking'

Second-hand smoke risk? Coun. defends cigarette waste pilot program amid concern from health agency

EMILY JACKSON
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A local health agency is concerned the city's pilot cigarette butt recycling program encourages smoking, but the city says the experiment has successfully taken toxic butts off the streets.

When the city installed 110 cigarette butt recycling receptacles on downtown lampposts more than six months ago, it addressed litter but overlooked second-hand smoke problems, Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly said Wednesday.

"Vancouver has been such a leader in their smoking bylaws, we don't want to see the presence of these butt bins create de facto smoking areas," Daly said, adding there has been anecdotal evidence of smokers gathering around the bins.

VCH also has concerns about the location of butt bins — some are within the six-metre buffer zone of doorways (the city agreed to move those) — and the labelling that doesn't warn people about smoking.

The city and VCH are in talks to address these concerns, Coun. Andrea Reimer said Wednesday.

A man places a cigarette butt in a butt recycling bin on Granville Street in Vancouver. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

"This is not about condoning smoking, it's creating pollution and litter in our public spaces and we are trying to find a responsible way to deal with that," Reimer said.

Cigarette butts aren't benign litter, she said, noting their toxins can leach into water or be picked up by children or pets.

"If the choice is between them being left on the ground or put into a garbage can, which isn't happening, we will choose the option we can to contain the impacts to people," she said.

But the city welcomes VCH's input and has "some work to do" to tweak the recycling program, she added.

A report on the pilot will come to council this fall, when the program's future will be decided.

In the interim, 205,413 butts have been recycled.

That's roughly 1,000 butts per day, said Albe Zakes of TerraCycle, the company that recycles the waste.

"Nothing about the program encourages smoking," Zakes said.

"The program does appear to be reducing the amount of cigarette litter, which is the one and only goal."

Charles Gauthier, president of the Downtown Vancouver BIA, has noticed fewer butts on the streets — in fact, he wants more bins and an advertising campaign so more people use them.

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Legebokoff. Alleged serial killer denied murdering girl upon arrest: Mountie

A young British Columbia man accused of murdering four people denied killing a 15-year-old girl the night he was arrested, an RCMP officer testified Wednesday.

Cody Legebokoff, 24, is on trial for four counts of first-degree murder. The trial has heard he was arrested in November 2010 after a police officer spotted his truck speeding out of a remote, snow-covered logging road.

The Mountie, Const. Aaron Kehler, told the jury a conservation officer was eventually sent up the logging road to look for possible signs of poaching but instead found the body of Loren Leslie.

Legebokoff, who was already under arrest, was then told he was facing a murder charge, said Kehler.

"Mr. Legebokoff turned to me and said, 'I found the girl, she was dead,' and then a short time after he said, 'She committed suicide,'" recalled Kehler, as Legebokoff listened from the witness box.

"He then looked at me and said, 'I didn't kill the girl.'"

Eventually, he told police he and Leslie met online and got together that night, the Crown said. He said the pair had sex but she "started freaking out," hitting herself with a pipe wrench and stabbing herself in the neck, the Crown has said.

Legebokoff was eventually charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Leslie, 35-year-old Jill Stuchenko, 35-year-old Cynthia Maas and 23-year-old Natasha Montgomery.

Legebokoff has pleaded not guilty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourth pipeline in region. TransCanada plans $1.9B pipe to Kitimat facility

TransCanada says it plans to build a $1.9-billion pipeline to help feed Chevron and Apache's proposed liquefied natural gas facility near Kitimat.

The Merrick Mainline Pipeline Project will run 260 kilometres from Dawson Creek, in B.C.'s resource-rich northeast, to Summit Lake, where Chevron and Apache's Pacific Trail Pipeline begins.

Pacific Trail will deliver gas the rest of the way to the coast, where the resource will be chilled into a liquid and exported abroad via tanker.

Chevron and Apache's Canadian subsidiaries have signed an agreement for TransCanada to deliver about 1.9 billion cubic feet per day on the Merrick pipeline.

The project could be up and running in the first quarter of 2020.

While early work is underway on the Merrick project, construction will only go ahead if it gets the green light from regulators and if Chevron and Apache decide to move ahead with their Kitimat LNG project.

With the latest project, TransCanada now has four natural-gas pipelines under development in the region, totalling $12.6 billion in investment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lynn Valley

Family escapes fire unharmed

A mother and her two teenage daughters managed to escape without injury after flames broke out in their North Vancouver home early Wednesday.

It took 15 firefighters about an hour to extinguish the blaze at 4547 Hoskins Rd., said Mike Cairns of the District of North Vancouver Fire Services.

THANDI FLETCHER/FOR METRO

International effort

Chinese fishing vessel seized

A 58-metre fishing boat suspected of using an illegal high-seas drift net to catch a half-ton of salmon in the North Pacific was detained by the U.S. Coast Guard last week and turned over Tuesday to Chinese authorities.

The Yin Yuan was spotted by a Canadian aircraft hosting Japanese observers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chemist Richard Bormett of Renishaw Canada engineering company uses a Raman spectroscopy machine to analyze the paint in Autumn Harbour, which owner David Robertson believes is an authentic Lawren Harris piece. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Alleged Group of Seven work a fraud: VAG curator

What art thou? Plan to compare specimen painting to verified Lawren Harris collapses

THANDI FLETCHER
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Despite its owner's claims, a painting that underwent laser testing in Vancouver this week was not created by Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris, says a senior curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

"I do not believe that the painting … is in fact a Lawren Harris," said Ian Thom, senior curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery. "It's that simple."

Thom's comments come a day after chemists put the painting in question, dubbed Autumn Harbour, through testing by a Raman spectroscopy machine at the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition taking place this week in Vancouver.

The chemists had planned on comparing Autumn Harbour against a Harris original titled Hurdy Gurdy to help determine its authenticity.

Chemist Kelly Akers said the data wouldn't be able to reveal if the painting is a Harris original but could determine if both pieces used the same paint.

No question

"I do not believe that the painting … is in fact a Lawren Harris. It's that simple."

Ian Thom, senior curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Autumn Harbour's owner, David Robertson of Delta, B.C., has wanted to compare his painting against a known Harris since he bought it 14 years ago in an antique shop in Bala, Ont.

But his plans changed when he said Hurdy Gurdy's owner pulled out.

Robertson said the owner had promised to bring the original to the chemistry conference but withdrew after Thom told him not to participate.

While Thom acknowledged the owner did ask for his advice, he said he didn't tell him to pull out of the conference. He only told him that he didn't believe it would accomplish anything.

Still, Robertson, who has carried out his own research, is convinced the piece is authentic. If it were, he said it would be worth at least $3 million.

Homeless soccer league seeks funds

Robert Milton, right, takes part in the June Sports tournament in 2011. CONTRIBUTED

Preparations are underway to raise money to send local homeless soccer players to a tournament on a small island north of Vancouver Island.

The Vancouver Street Soccer League is hoping to raise $7,000 to send 15 players and seven volunteers to June Sports, a tournament held every year in Alert Bay by the Namgis First Nation.

"In the past, it has been a profound experience," said Kurt Heinrich, vice-president of the league's board as well as an assistant coach.

Heinrich says the focus is on providing opportunities to aboriginal players who may not have had a chance to leave the city.

"They can't just head to the North Shore or zip down to Seattle like other people," he said. "It's a good chance for them to connect with their culture."

Teams in the league are mostly composed of players from the Downtown Eastside, with the Portland Hotel Society, Covenant House and low-income housing all represented.

Traditionally, players have been selected to attend the Homeless World Cup, but plans were shelved this year due to the cost of travel.

The tournament runs from June 12 to 15. Anyone interested in donating can do so at vancouverstreetsoccer.com. NICK WELLS/FOR METRO

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Men carry the casket of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, the Canadian-American cardiologist who was assassinated in Pakistan while on a humanitarian mission, at his funeral service in Vaughan, Ont., on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murdered doctor a 'real servant of humanity'

Extremists. Calls for Ottawa to pressure Pakistan to better protect minorities after Canadian heart doctor targeted

A Canadian cardiologist slain by gunmen in Pakistan is being remembered as a selfless humanitarian who was targeted for belonging to a religious minority.

A burial ceremony for Mehdi Ali Qamar saw impassioned calls for Ottawa to pressure the Pakistani government to better protect religious minorities against extremism.

Qamar, an Ahmadiyya Muslim who had returned to the country to do volunteer work at a hospital, was gunned down May 26 in central Pakistan in front of his wife and two-year-old son.

His nephew, Nasir Chaudhary, read a family statement calling Qamar a "real servant of humanity who never discriminated against his patients."

Relatives remembered him for always cracking jokes and penning poems about his love of life.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada president Lal Khan Malik said Qamar was "murdered because of his faith'' and said the Harper government must urge Pakistan to "stand up to extremists and promote freedom of religion."

Malik said "there is a patten to these murders," saying 137 other Ahmadiyyas have been killed in the south Asian country in the last four years.

"His murder is a direct result of the state-sponsored extremism that is practised in Pakistan."

Malik said Qamar, who lived in Ohio the last 10 years, "redeemed mankind through his good works."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pakistan

Brothers arrested for stoning sister to death

Pakistani police have arrested two brothers who participated in a mob attack during which their sister was stoned to death for marrying against the family's wishes, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

Nayab Haider said the two men, Ghulam Ali and Zahid Ali, were arrested from a home in the eastern Punjab province following an intensive manhunt.

Authorities arrested the woman's father after the attack, and four other people were arrested last Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record breaker

13-year-old girl conquers Everest

The 13-year-old daughter of poor Indian farmers who became the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest said Wednesday that she "shed joyful tears" at the summit after a gruelling climb across difficult terrain and personal fear.

Nepal requires climbers to be at least 16 years old to scale its peaks, but Malavath Poorna said she and a team of Nepalese guides climbed the 8,850-metre mountain on May 25 from the northern side in Tibet. There are no age restrictions in China.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finland

Five dead babies found in basement

Finnish police have arrested a 35-year-old woman on suspicion of manslaughter after finding five dead babies in an apartment building, authorities said Wednesday.

Officers found the bodies in "badly smelly packages" Tuesday in a basement cupboard of an apartment building in the city of Oulu after they were alerted to the scene by emergency services.

Leinonen said the woman couldn't give a clear motive for keeping and storing what he said appeared to be fetuses for so long. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Harper, Barroso meet in Brussels to discuss stalled free-trade deal

Foreign affairs. PM meets with European Commission in Belgium ahead of G7 summit

Prime Minister Stephen Harper waves as he arrives at the Melsbroek military airport in Belgium Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Harper arrived Wednesday in Brussels for the G7 summit — but his first order of business was to kick-start his stalled free-trade deal with the European Union.

The prime minister met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, about an hour prior to the official opening of the G7 summit, where the Ukraine-Russia crisis was set to dominate.

But Harper appeared eager to make progress towards getting a final text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Harper flew to Brussels to meet Barroso in a high-profile ceremony last October to sign an agreement in principle on the deal.

But the final, lawyer-approved document remains an elusive entity as some of the major irritants that stalled the protracted four-year negotiations reared their heads yet again in recent weeks.

The Harper government insists the delays are simply a matter of hammering out the precise final legal text, and are not a matter of substantive disagreement.

The Prime Minister's Office expressed optimism in a statement after Wednesday night's meeting.

"Leaders were pleased that the process to finalize the text, further to the agreement in principle announced last October, remains on track," said the PMO readout.

A stalled or scuttled deal would be politically damaging to Harper, who views a comprehensive deal with the EU's 28-country bloc to be the jewel in his crown of a series of much smaller trade agreements. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shifting sands

Harper and Barroso struck up a strong personal rapport last fall in the weeks leading up to their October announcement. At the October signing ceremony, Barroso praised Harper as a skilled negotiator.

- However, the political ground is shifting in Europe, and if the final legal text of the deal doesn't come soon, the prime minister could face less trade-friendly characters.

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Toronto uses tower power in branded condom rollout

Toronto unwrapped its very own city-branded condom design Wednesday, featuring the phallic point of the CN Tower and three aptly chosen city street signs: Cummer Avenue, Wood Street and Coxwell Avenue.

Toronto Public Health tweeted out the design of "condomTO" in six separate tweets, starting at 9 a.m.

A message on the condom's package reads, "No matter which way you go, put it on!"

The condom, launched by the health agency, comes two weeks before World Pride celebrations kick off in the city on June 20.

Dr. David McKeown, the city's medical officer, says the condom's main goal is to get Torontonians talking about safe sex — and using condoms.

"This is a lighthearted approach to what is a serious subject," he said. "We want to raise awareness and try something new and different to get people thinking about safer sex. We're trying to make it something that people in Toronto will talk about."

About 60 people die from HIV in Toronto annually, he added. Using condoms is an effective way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases but statistics show many people choose not to use them.

The AIDS Committee of Toronto welcomed the move by Toronto Public Health, but pointed out only men's, not women's, condoms were available.

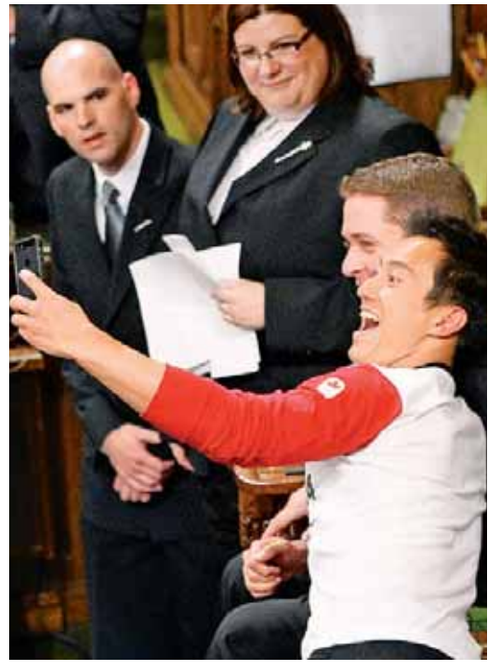
"The message doesn't start and end with condoms in a bowl," said spokesman Rafay Agha.

"But kudos to Toronto Public Health. The more safer-sex options people have, the better. It's also a great starting point for a conversation. Our symbol of the city is a phallic building." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

First of its kind

This is the first Canadian city-branded condom that McKeown is aware of.

- Other major cities in North America, including Los Angeles and New York, have their own branded condoms.



Every Chan for him-selfie

Canadian Olympic figure skater Patrick Chan takes a selfie with House Speaker Andrew Scheer as Olympic athletes were honoured in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto

Man faces charges for indecent act with cucumber

A Toronto man is facing charges after police allege he committed an indecent act in a library while holding a cucumber.

Fredrick Tennyson Davis, 49, is charged with committing an indecent act and two counts of failing to comply with probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida

After pulling over detective, phoney cop in real trouble

Police say a man impersonating an officer faces charges after signalling a real detective to pull over on a road in Florida.

Authorities say 20-year-old Matthew Michael Lee McMahon activated a red and blue light Monday while driving behind an unmarked sheriff's car.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Moncton police pursue shooting suspect after deadly rampage

Three Mounties killed, two injured.
Police were looking for Justin Bourque, 24, of Moncton, last night

RCMP in New Brunswick posted this photo of suspect Justin Bourque on Twitter.

Heavily armed police in Moncton look for a shooter Wednesday night following the shooting deaths of three fellow officers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The RCMP says three of its officers were killed in Moncton, N.B., by a man armed with guns and two other officers were injured as the Mounties conducted a manhunt across the city's north end on Wednesday night for the shooter.

Shortly before midnight, police said they believed the suspect was at large in the Pinehurst subdivision of the city.

RCMP in New Brunswick said on its Twitter feed that they were looking for 24-year-old Justin Bourque of Moncton. The police force tweeted an image of a suspect wearing military camouflage and wielding two guns.

The RCMP released its first information on the shooting at about 9:15 p.m. through Twitter.

It confirmed the deaths of the three officers on Twitter at 11 p.m., tweeting: "3 officers mortally wounded by shooter. 2 officers sustained non life threatening injuries. Shooter still actively sought."

The Horizon Health Network, the province's largest health authority, said on its Twitter feed that two patients were taken to the Moncton Hospital with gunshot wounds.

Const. Damien Theriault said police were urging people in the area to stay inside their homes and lock their doors.

Drivers were also asked to stay out of the area.

"We're advising people to stay inside until further notice," Theriault said.

Federal Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney tweeted, "Shocked by the tragedy in #Moncton. Thoughts and prayers with our frontline @rcmpgrcpolice officers and families."

Theriault said the search for the suspect was concentrated in the area of Ryan Street and Hildegarde Road.

His voicemail later said that the RCMP were searching for the suspect in the area of the Moncton Coliseum. Sean Gallacher, who lives near the area of the search, said he heard gunshots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Relatives mourn Tiananmen victims amid tight security

Clampdown more restrictive than usual. Dozens of dissidents and critics detained, under house arrest or sent out of the city

Yin Min said she held the ashes of her 19-year-old son and wept as she marked 25 years since he was killed in the crackdown by Chinese tanks and troops on protests at Tiananmen Square. Outside, guards kept a close eye on her home while police blanketed central Beijing to block any public commemoration of one of the darkest chapters in recent Chinese history.

"I don't even have one bit of power. Why must we be controlled so strictly this year?" Yin said in a telephone interview.

Police have kept a round-the-clock surveillance of Yin's home since April, she said.

China allows no public discussion of the events of June 3-4, 1989, when soldiers backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers fought their way into the heart of Beijing, killing hundreds, possibly thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers.

On Wednesday, scores of police and paramilitary troops patrolled the vast plaza and surrounding streets in Beijing's heart, stopping vehicles and demanding identification from passers-by. Chinese censors scrubbed domestic blogs and social media websites of comments marking the crackdown.

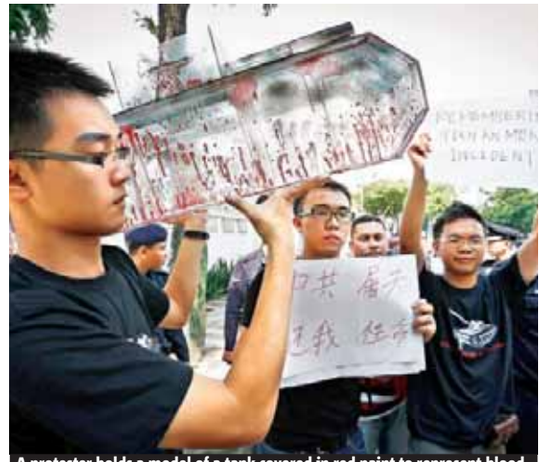
Authorities allowed about a dozen relatives of four people killed in the crackdown to pay their respects at a cemetery in Beijing, but they were under police escort and were watched by several dozen plainclothes officers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paying their respects

"Our tears have run dry, our voices are already hoarse.... With the passage of time, we will bury our sorrow deep in our hearts."

Prepared text read by relatives paying their respects at a cemetery in Beijing to four people killed in the Tiananmen crackdown



A protester holds a model of a tank covered in red paint to represent blood during a protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square. VINCENT THIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives' demands ignored

The Chinese government has largely ignored relatives' demands for an admission of wrongdoing and for a complete, formal accounting of the crackdown and the number of casualties.

- Beijing's verdict is that the student-led protests aimed to topple the ruling Communist Party and plunge China into chaos.
- Protest leaders said they were seeking broader democracy and freedom, along with an end to corruption and favouritism within the party.

Hong Kong

Large crowds pack park for night vigil

The silence on the mainland about the anniversary of a pivotal event that shocked the world contrasted with boisterous commemorations in Hong Kong.

Large crowds gathered Wednesday night in the city's Victoria Park for a candlelight vigil to remember the Tiananmen victims, holding candles aloft that turned the vast area into a sea of flickering light.

Activists laid a wreath at a makeshift memorial as the names and biographical details of people killed in the crackdown were read out. Organizers said more than 180,000 people took part, with many overflowing into the streets around the park's main entrance.

In Beijing, there were no signs of demonstrations or commemorations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more photos of the St. Regis hotel's swankiest amenities.

Sweet to sour. Burt of Burt's Bees buzzed back to Maine after love affair with staffer

Conventional wisdom suggests the Burt behind Burt's Bees left the company after he became disillusioned with the corporate world in North Carolina and wanted to return to his solitary life in Maine.

The reality, Burt Shavitz says, is that he was forced out by co-founder Roxanne Quimby after he had an affair with an employee.

So the man on the Burt's Bees logo that promises "Earth-friendly natural personal care products" ended up with 37 acres in Maine, and an undisclosed sum of money.

And he's not complaining.

"In the long run, I got the land, and land is everything. Land is positively everything. And money is nothing really worth squabbling about. This is what puts people six feet under. You know, I don't need it," he told a filmmaker on the property where the company was launched in the 1980s.

The reclusive beekeeper whose simple life became complicated by his status as a corporate icon is now the subject of a documentary, Burt's Buzz, which opens Friday in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Phoenix and Cleveland.

Burt Shavitz stands on his property in Parkman, Maine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interviewed by The Associated Press on his land in Maine, Shavitz declined to discuss his relationship with Quimby.

"What I have in this situation is no regret," he said, sitting in a rocking chair. "The bottom line is she's got her world and I've got mine, and we let it go at that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get white-glove service ... for $21,500 a night

As the gap between the wealthiest travellers and everyone else has widened, high-rollers are looking for ever more pampering. Luxury hotels are arising even at iconic middle-American tourism spots such as Walt Disney World. Case in point: this Abu Dhabi Suite at the St. Regis in Abu Dhabi. The nearly 24,0000-square-foot two-storey suite, which sells for a nightly rate of $21,500 US, is suspended 720 feet above the ground between the two buildings of the Nation Towers development. It has three bedrooms, a spa, a cinema, a bar area, two kitchens and a 360-degree panoramic view of the city, the islands, and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. The suite has 19 chandeliers made of Bohemian crystal, and an elevator that takes guests to ground level in total privacy, bypassing the rest of the hotel. KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fraud

America catching up to Canada with card microchips

Sam's Club on Wednesday said it will become the first mass retailer in the U.S. to offer a credit card using a fraud-deterring microchip.

Visa and MasterCard are pushing for the adoption of microchips, which they say have helped reduce fraud in Canada, Mexico and most of Western Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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GAME OF BLEEDING RAINBOWS & BAD ACCENTS

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Game of Thrones is one of the most intensely loved shows in the history of television, which is interesting for a show that does not love you back.

The sword-and-sorcery-and-rape-and-decapitation fantasy series has its moments of joy and hope, but they're mostly there so they can be snatched away from you, like a child's toy, your shocked face part of the latest YouTube reaction montage.

Author George R.R. Martin wrote the books the series is based on, so he can be blamed for most of the emotional wallop. Then the show producers looked at a book series full of sexual assault, decapitation, castration and people getting slaughtered at weddings and said, "Hey, could be worse. Let's make it worse!"

It all came to a head in the most recent episode as the emotional and physical pain combined perfectly when (spoiler!) a much-loved character had his skull slowly crushed ON SCREEN, destroying hope and brains in equal measure. (Double spoiler!: He died.)

The impact of that scene had me thinking about what Martin could have done with some of television's most famous programs.

If all TV were like Game of Thrones …

* If Martin had written **Seinfeld**, the Master of My Domain episode would have been about who can go the longest without losing their genitals.

* If Martin had written **Reading Rainbow**, the theme song would have been, "Butterfly in the sky/Loses its wings and dies/Dare to look/Within my book/A Bleeding Rainbow (death by crossbow!)"

* If Martin had written **WKRP,** Les Nessman's cuts would have been fatal.

* If Martin had written **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**, Mary would have thrown her hat in the air and been hit by a truck.

* If Martin had written **The Wire**, the mayor of Baltimore would have been a conniving narcissist with unbridled lust for power and women, played by an Irish actor with a deeply unconvincing accent.

* If Martin had written **Friends**, one episode would have been called The One About the Incestuous Rape Over the Barely Warm Corpse of Their Child.

* If Martin had written **The X-Files**,Scully would have said dragons don't exist while a dragon was eating her.

* If Martin had written **Freaks and Geeks**, it would have been Carrie.

* If Martin had written **The Daily Show with Jon Stewart**, your Moment of Zen would have been the anguished screams of the dying.

* If Martin had written **The Larry Sanders Show**, it would have been exactly the same. He loves that guy.

As you can see, I'm sort of obsessed. I feel like if the show has gotten us this invested, it must take a happy turn soon, right? I've got a good feeling about next week. And if the good guys don't start winning, I swear, heads will roll.

ZOOM

But is it cat?

Felines: 'The universal mode of communication'

SVETLANA PETROVA
Artist based in St. Petersburg, Russia

After her mother died, artist Svetlana Petrova went into a deep depression. A friend suggested dressing up Zarathustra, the kitty Petrova inherited from her mom, in costumes for a photo session as a pick-me-up. But the cat was so fat that he couldn't fit into anything. Instead, Petrova photoshopped him into works of art. Metro sat down with Petrova to get more details.

Are you a big fan of memes? I love the concept. If I were to return to university I'd write a thesis on it. But I want to make memes that are pretty. Many memes are just plain ugly.

Why do cats have such appeal? Cats are the universal mode of communication. We may all speak different languages but we're all lovers of cats. They're a way of bringing us together to do good. For example, two years ago there was Hank, a cat that ran for the U.S. senate. For his campaign, I helped design some fake dollar bills with his picture on them. The project raised a lot of money for animal charities in the U.S. and Russia. So we managed to do good, not through people but through a cat. METRO

The Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci gets a ginger fat cat addition. Below: catified versions of Portrait of an Unknown Woman in Russian Costume by Ivan Argunov and Bogatyrs by Viktor Vasnetsov. COURTESY SVETLANA PETROVA

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 14 in Business and page 36 in Sports

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MetroTube

metro AR

Man goes in search of lost time on a motorbike

REBECCA WILLIAMS
readers@metronews.ca

Every corner of the world is more connected than ever, but what about our connection to the past?

Douglas Gautraud's romanticizing of another time and his ties to his grandfathers left him wanting something outside of living life online. So, much to his mother's chagrin, he bought a motorcycle.

What follows is an endearing story about how two wheels and an engine help a man explore his relationship with his elders, and how it became his "Mom's Motorcycle." (Via Douglas Gautraud/YouTube)

SCREENGRAB

metro
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Star-crossed lovers, nymphs highlight springtime culture

Take three. From Shakespeare on the beach to a film about the Salish Sea at the public library

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Bard. The beach. A midsummer night

There are a bunch of sprites rehearsing down at Vanier Park for the 25th anniversary of the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival.

Star-crossed lovers, royal engagements and muddled tradesmen, too.

Yes, it's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the 'Speare's razor-sharp comedic romp that lets love loose in a world of fairies, elves and nymphs.

In a nutshell: The King of the Fairies is upset with Queen Titania. As disgruntled fairies are wont to do, he commands the mischievous fairy Puck to charm the Queen with a magical nectar that causes love at first sight. He also turns a weaver into an ass. You know, the donkey kind.

Meanwhile, at court, Hermia loves Lysander but her meddling father wants her to marry Demetrious. But hold on to your jester's hat because Helena loves Demetrious. And then that crazy Puck uses his potion on them and that, as magical fairy potions are wont to do, complicates things.

And the bumbling tradesmen? Well, they're rehearsing a play they hope to present at court. The play is set to be staged at the wedding of Duke Theseus and the Amazon Queen. Shakespearean hilarity ensues.

Directed by Dean Paul Gibson, A Midsummer Night's Dream runs Tuesday to Sunday from June 11 to Sept. 20 at the BMO Mainstage in Vanier Park. Tickets $27–$47. For more information, visit BardontheBeach.org.

Something Fierce

Carmen Aguirre, author of Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter, lost out on $60,000 worth of royalties when her publisher went bankrupt last year.

The book won Canada Reads in 2012 and artists need to get paid, yo. Aguirre makes a living as a writer and theatre artist. A fundraiser, Gran Malón: In Solidarity with Carmen Aguirre, has been organized for Monday at Heritage Hall (3102 Main Street), from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets run from $20–$500.

Scott Bellis plays Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream at this summer's Bard on the Beach. COURTESY DAVID AND EMILY COOPER

You can attend personally, or virtually. All proceeds go to the artist. Visit granalon.blogspot.ca for more.

World Oceans Day

Our oceans are important. Because life, right? Check out a screening of Reaching Blue, a short film about the rapidly changing Salish Sea, at the Vancouver Public Library (downtown), on June 10.

Also on the itinerary are short films 28 Feet: Life on a Boat and The Questions We Ask, followed by an impassioned discussion featuring Jodi Stark (David Suzuki Foundation), Kim Juniper (Ocean Networks Canada) and filmmaker Ian Hinkle. Starts at 7 p.m. Free.

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Darcy Oake's finale will be risky business

When doves fly.
Winnipeg magician plans to up the ante for his final act on Britain's Got Talent

Winnipeg magician Darcy Oake says he's planning "a very dangerous piece" for Saturday's finale of Britain's Got Talent as he competes for the top prize.

"The way we're doing it, it's risky — big time," the 26-year-old said this week in a telephone interview from London.

The son of Hockey Night in Canada broadcaster Scott Oake is one of 10 finalists vying for the prize of about $456,000. Newly announced wild card contender Jon Clegg will also be competing during Saturday's live finale, which will see the voting public in the U.K. decide the winner.

Oake wouldn't reveal what his final trick will be, noting "it's got to be a surprise," but he said it's a new presentation of something he's done a handful of times. (One of his most dangerous tricks has seen him suspended by his feet trying to get out of a straight jacket before a bear trap hanging from a burning rope above him becomes loose.)

A specialist in sleight-of-hand and illusions, Oake said he knew he wanted to be a magician as a kid after his dad fooled him during a card-trick attempt.

He first learned his craft from library books and practised at birthday parties before gradually moving on to bigger venues, headlining shows around Canada and the U.S.

But he became "artistically unsatisfied" and wanted to take his act to the next level, and that's why he tried out for Britain's Got Talent, the hit talent show competition that has discovered the likes of singers Paul Potts and Susan Boyle.

His first performance — in which he pulled off jaw-dropping illusions with doves — wowed the audience as well as judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams. (A YouTube clip of the performance has garnered over 25 million views.)

His Britain's Got Talent competition includes electric violinist Lettice Rowbotham, opera singer Lucy Kay and dance act Yanis Marshall, Arnaud and Mehdi.

He said he's looking at it as a competition against himself, not his competitors, and he's not sure what he would do with the prize money if he won.

"It's not about the money for me at all. It's about coming here and presenting the craft and the art form in a respectable way and in a way that's seen as something different." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dangerous?

"... I feel like each piece needs to be bigger than the last one, and this is kind of the only way to close out the show for me."
Darcy Oake, magician
on his final performance on Britain's Got Talent

Winnipeg magician Darcy Oake will compete Saturday for the top prize on Britain's Got Talent. ZAKARY BELAMY

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

In post-breakup, Mayer becomes muse to Katy Perry

At this point, we'll soon be able to put out a compilation album of songs written about John Mayer. His most recent ex, Katy Perry, tells Cosmopolitan that fans shouldn't be surprised to hear some tunes on forthcoming albums inspired by their breakup. "There's no bad blood, but I'm sure there will be inspired songs," she tells the magazine.

Taylor Swift, another of Mayer's exes, also penned a tune or two about the singer.

Mayer, for his part, isn't too worried about the output. "I have super-strength for gang-ups," he tells TMZ. "I'm fine. That's what you're supposed to do, man. You're supposed to write songs. You're just not supposed to tell everybody you're doing it."

Nick Loeb's pals couldn't be happier about split from Sofia Vergara

Last month, Sofia Vergara announced the end of her two-year engagement to Nick Loeb, and apparently his friends are thrilled by the news, according to Page Six. "I'm happy to see her go. Good riddance," one of businessman Loeb's pals said, shooting down claims that Loeb was using the relationship to ride Vergara's coattails.

According to the friend, the Modern Family actress was "rude" during group dinners, ignoring others and constantly checking her phone and Twitter account. "She only joins the conversation if it's about her."

Sofia Vergara

The Word

50 blames his terrible pitching on too much hand practice

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

50 Cent is sure living life to the fullest this summer. First he throws the worst first pitch ever at a Mets game. Then he has a rival robbed onstage. Now he says he masturbated so much he hurt his bones.

No, not that bone.

Fiddy is blaming that dismal first pitch on a sort of repetitive stress injury. In his Reddit AMA Tuesday, he said, "I have a skeletal muscle injury from excessive masturbation so take it easy lol."

Will do! Then again, most of us do not have to pitch at Major League baseball games, so we are free to abuse ourselves as extravagantly as we choose, no matter how fraught with peril our technique may be.

In that same AMA, 50 Cent also said he used to bench press 405 pounds, so perhaps the injury had other causes. He also showed his nerdy side: When asked what would be his dream movie role, he replied, "One of the Marvel franchise. Or Star Wars."

Just be careful how many times you swing the light sabre.

Kourtney Kardashian

Kourtney Kardashian is expecting, many selfies to follow

The Kardashian-Jenner family may still be on a high from Kim's wedding, but now they have another reason to celebrate. Kourtney and boyfriend Scott Disick are reportedly expecting their third child. Us Weekly is reporting that she is a few months along, and you can count on the mag — as well as other tabloids — to document her ever-growing bump throughout the coming months.

So far, the couple and the Kardashian clan haven't officially announced the pregnancy in the press or on social media. But you know this family can't keep quiet for long.

Kardashian and Disick have two children together already.

Twitter

@samantharonson
The guy down the street listens to talk radio with this front door open, like it's his job to scare the kids in the neighbourhood.

@SethMacFarlane
We are so lucky that the great escape artists like Harry Houdini aren't also serial killers who can't be locked up.

@ChloeGMoretz
up till 2 writing school essay before my press day tomorrow

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Fashion designers are turning to crowdfunding to boost brand buzz, profile and bottom line

Sunny Fong recently reached out to online donors to expand his VAWK label. In a video on his Indiegogo fundraising page, Fong appealed for help to stage his World MasterCard Fashion Week runway show in Toronto in March as well as aid to launch his label's first online store. KEITH BEATY / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dylan Uscher works mainly with independent boutiques to feature his creations, but the designer hopes that crowdfunding will help elevate his label from budding brand to booming success.

The self-taught American designer recently moved back to Boston after eight years in Toronto where he launched Dylanium Knits in 2010.

Uscher has partnered with Luevo — a Canadian crowdfunding platform for designers — to help pre-sell his fall collection of knitwear inspired by Florentine architecture. His online campaign ends June 15.

"It's always a struggle when you're an independent business owner because you have to work really hard to get the very little that you have," Uscher said. "This just seemed like a really great outlet to try and get some new sales."

All items in his collection featured on Luevo are 15 per cent less than the suggested retail price.

And Uscher will only produce them if the products reach designated targets among customers who've pledged to purchase the designs, which include scarves, a slouch hat and cape.

"Instead of using hypothetical market research or numbers that someone else has designed, you can put your own products out there and really test ... what products are going to work and what colours work and what doesn't," Uscher said.

"I think that's the really interesting way to approach it without having to go through all of the process of producing the items yourself and hoping that they sell."

Luevo co-founder Ana Caracaleanu said the site launched with its first designers in March and plans to keep the number of labels featured in their "curated marketplace" to under 10 for now, with campaigns of 30 to 45 days.

Luevo takes a 15 per cent commission from successfully funded projects but also works to support designers in other ways such as editing news releases and producing written content, she added.

"For the designers, the value that we bring is our technology to crowdsource items that are not yet produced. They don't have to pull the inventory," Caracaleanu said. "They could use us as a step in growing their businesses or scaling up, and then taking their productions to a larger site where they may be requested to have ... the inventory to put their items there."

Christopher Charlesworth is co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider. He isn't surprised to see designers pursuing crowdfunding as capital- and buzz-building strategy.

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place.

"For many startup designers, they don't have access to the traditional distribution channels. Crowdfunding allows them to connect directly with a unique audience that is potentially interested in their goods."

The platform also offers the opportunity to take risks with designs they might not be able to produce when dealing with a mainstream chain, Charlesworth noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THIS EXTER SLOUCH HAT IN SILVER FROM DYLANIUM KNITS RETAILS FOR $105 BUT IS CURRENTLY SELLING ON LUEVO FOR $89.

The pros and cons of the crowdsourcing concept

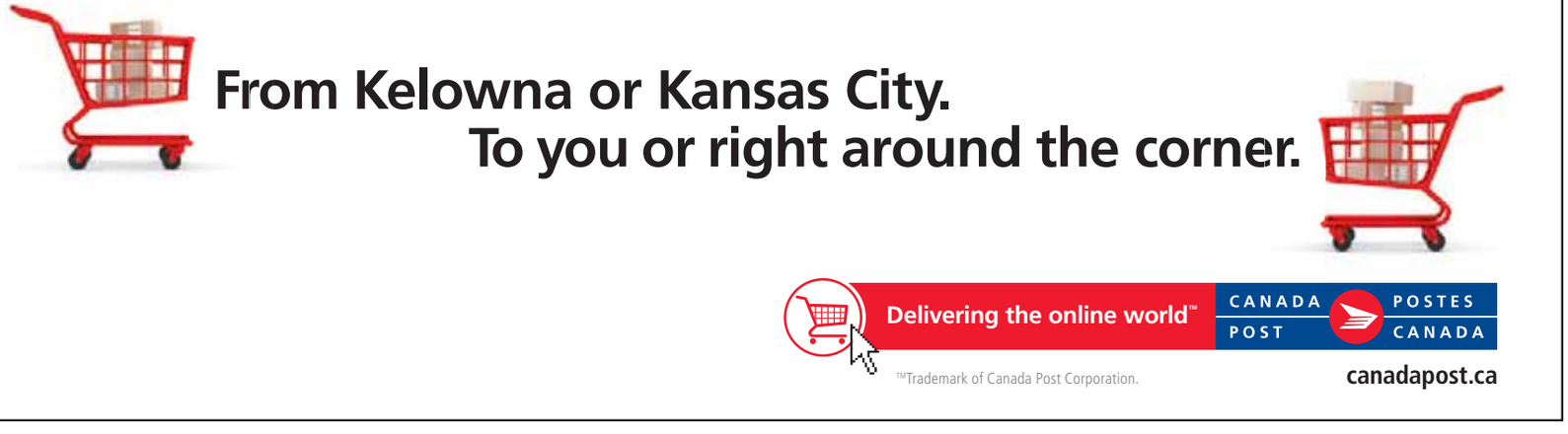
Darren Meister, an associate professor of business at Western University in London, Ont., said he thinks a bigger risk from a fashion perspective is the ability to see the designs — and potential interest from consumers — posted online for all to see. That includes major retailers who may jump on creating their own versions.

- Yet Meister said he also sees the possibility of rewards for emerging designers using the platform to make their mark, and some sales in the process.
- What the crowdfunding model allows you is to try a more things, get more immediate feedback and improve your designs, he said. "If I'm a designer and I put up 20 designs and I see these three are the ones that are catching on, I'm probably going to focus on those three."

E-xclusivity

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place."

Christopher Charlesworth
Co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider



The best of the west: Killer Fish Tacos

Lunch or dinner.
Nothing screams summer more than fresh fruit, and this recipe takes nature's and mixes it with crispy fish

This recipe serves eight. JEREMY KORESKI

1. Prepare the fresh fruit salsa.

2. Cut the salmon and halibut into 1-inch cubes and season with salt.

3. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté for 1 minute. Add the fish and fry for about 3 minutes, until just cooked Add the chipotle chilies and sauté for 2 or 3 more minutes. Remove from the heat.

4. Fill the taco shells halfway with the fish mixture, then top with the salsa. Serve immediately, two tacos per person.

Ingredients

- Fresh Fruit Salsa (see below)
- 1 lb wild salmon, boneless and skinless
- 1 lb halibut, bonelesss and skinless
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup small-diced red onion (about 1 onion)
- 1/2 cup puréed canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
- 16 crispy hard taco shells

Fresh Fruit Salsa

- 4 kiwi fruits, diced small
- 1/2 pineapple, diced
- 1 mango, diced small
- 1 small papaya, diced small
- 2 avocados, diced small
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Fresh Fruit Salsa

1. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate until ready to use. This salsa will stand up for about 24 hours, after which time the fruit begins to break down. EXCERPTED FROM THE SOBO COOKBOOK. COPYRIGHT 2014 LISA AHIER AND ANDREW MORRISON. PUBLISHED BY APPETITE BY RANDOM HOUSE, WHICH IS A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE CANADA LIMITED. REPRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PUBLISHER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

The B.C. coast comes to your home

Sophisticated Bohemian (Sobo) has gone from food truck to destination restaurant in Tofino, B.C. to a cookbook. Lisa Ahier (the restaurant's chef and owner) has teamed up with Andrew Morrison (a food writer) for a release that focuses on locally sourced, seasonally inspired ingredients — just like the restaurant that inspired it. Among the 100 recipes included are: Crab and Goat Cheese Wontons, BBQ Bison Flank Streak, Mascarpone Cheesecake and more. METRO

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MAKE YOUR SPRING EXTRA GREEN

DONATE CLOTHES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AT VALUE VILLAGE

Are you looking for more ways to contribute positively to the environment in your everyday life? Shop second-hand.

The clothing you wear and give away can make a big impact on the environment. On average, each North American throws away more than 30 kilograms (68 pounds) of clothing and textiles each year.

The good news is that nearly 100 per cent of that is reusable or recyclable. So this season while you are combing through your closet, packing away your sweaters and getting out those shorts and T-shirts, make your spring extra green by donating your clothes and household items at Value Village.

"Donating the clothes you don't need anymore is a simple, easy way for anyone to go green in their everyday lives," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "It might seem like a small contribution, but over time one person can make a really big difference."

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world, keeping more than 294,000 metric tonnes (approximately 650 million pounds — that's the size of two cruise ships) of quality goods from landfills by selling reusable items in-store and responsibly recycling items unsuitable for resale.

CONTRIBUTED

Last year, Value Village repurposed 329 million tops, 59 million pairs of shoes, 114 million pairs of pants and 28 million coats.

Of course, second-hand shoppers are just as important as donors. Visiting your local thrift store is a great way to find good quality, one-of-a-kind items for excellent prices. Shoppers can look good and go green at the same time.

"Value Village works with community partners like Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Canadian Diabetes Association to keep goods out of landfills and give pre-loved clothing a brand new life," Shumpert says. "You never know what treasures you'll find — thrift shopping makes recycling fun."

For more, visit valuevillage.com.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Make room for your fresh new finds by cleaning out the old clothes you don't wear anymore. Value Village pays local non-profits every time you donate, helping to support their programs and services within the community.

"Our goal at Value Village is to support our communities across Canada," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "We consider community investment an essential component of our business."

Over the past 10 years, Value Village has purchased more than $1.5 billion of goods from its partners, turning otherwise unused items into sustainable funding that supports the non-profit's vital community programs and services.

Helping out the community — now that's truly stylish.

Dig through fashion gold mines

Unique style is a coveted quality. This is true now more than ever thanks to street style blogs like the Sartorialist, Street Peeper, Face Hunter, and many others.

"Second-hand shopping has become the fashionista's secret weapon," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "You never know what you're going to find there, and sometimes it's a gold mine."

Here's how to find your style at Value Village:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LOOK FOR HIGH-QUALITY MATERIALS

The fabrics you choose will make a difference in the longevity of your garments. Keep your eyes open for high-quality textiles like silk or wool. These materials wear well, last a long time and never go out of style. Value Village purposely selects high-quality clothing, and puts more than 5,000 to 10,000 new items out every day.

CHECK THE LABEL

Chanel, Nike, Lululemon, Aritzia brands such as Wilfred and TNA — high-quality brand names are frequent finds at Value Village. As you are sifting through the racks, watch the labels. You will find items for $10 that would have originally retailed for hundreds.

TRY IT ON

At Value Village, clothing is arranged by size so you can easily find the best fit for you, but since every item is different, make sure to try it on to find out how it fits.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY NO

Sometimes a clothing item just isn't for you. If it's not quite right, don't buy it. Or if you bought it and you are having second thoughts, bring it back. Value Village welcomes buyers to exchange their purchases within seven days so you can save your pocket money for items that feel just right.

CONSIDER GETTING IT TAILORED

If you find a $5 jacket in just the right shade of blue, but it doesn't quite fit, consider getting it altered at a tailor. It will still cost far less than it would new, and you will have a great piece that will last you for years.

Value Village ECO-STATS

facebook.com/ValueVillage @saversvvillage pinterest.com/saversvvillage

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world and diverts more than 650 million pounds of quality goods from landfills each year.

The EPA estimates that the average person throws away up to

70 POUNDS OF CLOTHING PER YEAR.

(SMART Association)

Almost **100%** of clothing and textiles are recyclable.

However, **85%** of clothing and textile waste goes to landfills. *(World Wear Project)*

Last year alone, **Value Village** repurposed:

329 MILLION TOPS

114 MILLION PAIRS OF PANTS

59 MILLION PAIRS OF SHOES

28 MILLION COATS

That's enough merchandise to supply the average woman's lifetime wardrobe almost **145,000 times over.**

Value Village gives a second life to more than 1.8 million pounds of reusable items every day, totaling

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All decked out for summer

Sunny makeover. A DIY weekend transformed a tired deck into a bright, summertime retreat

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The 40-year-old deck at the back of my house was in desperate need of some freshening up. Structurally it was sound, but the sun-bleached wood was in desperate need of some style inspiration. My inspiration came from sun-filled Miami, where the outdoor spaces are white, bright and accessorized with a pop of colour.

With the help of two friends I transformed an unused space into an outdoor entertaining area that works both day and night.

Here's some inspiration, and the products, that helped me get the look.

BEFORE: This deck was in serious need of some TLS (tender loving style).

AFTER: Following a quick weekend of painting and laying some new flooring, the old tired patio was ready for summer. The Dimplex Outdoor Fireplace (now discontinued) was purchased at a yard sale and creates a much-needed focal point while offering the look of an outdoor fire when entertaining at night. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Paint the wood white

A solid wood stain (similar to a paint) was applied not only to brighten the outdoor space but also to protect the wood from drying out further. I chose a cool, off-white putty colour to help calm the eye on a bright day. Pure white can sometimes be too glaring and often looks cheap. TimberCare Solid Colour Wood Stain, Cement Gray, $55, Para.com

Cushion a blue streak

For a cool-to-touch Miami feeling, I kept all the furnishings light in tone and accessorized with hits of blue and green. Zuo Modern Maclear Outdoor Sofa, $1,450, Lowes.ca

It's easy being green

I'm not much of a gardener, so the simplest way to get a shot of green on the deck was to use artificial grass. Delivered as a roll, it lays flat on the existing deck, can be vacuumed, cleaned with a garden hose, is fade-resistant and stays cool on the sunniest of days. UZ-ITE Green Grass Shag Carpet, $19/yard HomeDepot.ca

A real shady deal

No trees by my deck means the need for shade when entertaining. One day, a retractable awning (a dream) will get installed. Until then, a super-chic, free-standing umbrella will keep things cool. Karlso Umbrella, $90, IKEA.ca

Daffodils need their space

Make room for new growth. Tips to keep daffodils flowering

Now that daffodil bloom time has passed, some gardeners might be wondering where their flowers were. If some plants remained all leaves, with few or no flowers, why was that?

It might be that overhanging trees have made the location too shady. But the more likely culprit is the plant's age.

As a daffodil bulb gets older, baby bulbs, called offsets, develop snuggled up against its side. You can picture this most clearly if you realize that a daffodil bulb is, essentially, a compressed stem. That stem is the "plate" at the base of the bulb, and the leaves are the fleshy scales up and around it.

Just as any stem eventually makes side branches, a bulb also, with time, "branches." These branches — the offsets — likewise beget their own babies. So what you have over time is a lot of bulbs of varying sizes packed into a very small space.

The offsets won't flower until they reach a certain size. If they are too crowded, they have trouble reaching that size. The result: Few or no blooms. (It pays, then, when purchasing bulbs, to get large ones; they make more flowers their first spring.)

Give the bulbs more elbow room

The obvious solution is to give each developing bulb more room. Dig up the bulbs and separate them as soon as the foliage turns brown. The youngest ones, the ones that have just split off from their mothers, are spoon-shaped. Older ones are round and, if large enough, will each house a single flower bud, possibly two. The larger the bulbs, the better the blooms.

No need to plant the divided bulbs back in the ground immediately. Bulb nurseries store their daffodil bulbs out of the soil in a cool room. It is during the summer, when the bulbs are apparently dormant, that buds inside the bulbs morph into flower buds. Optimum conditions for this change in daffodils are when storage is at 75 per cent humidity and temperatures are around 60 degrees. Easiest, of course, is just to stick the bulbs back in the ground, giving each one enough room to develop and make babies for a few years.

With good conditions, a spoon-shaped baby becomes a small flowering bulb after a year, and in another year that small flowering bulb can make two flower buds. After another year, the "double-nose," as it's called, is making offsets of its own.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The secret to keeping the bloom on your daffodils is in the bulbs. The older the bulbs are, the more they need thinning. GETTY IMAGES

Blossoming future

- Daffodils like moderately rich soil that stays moist, but is not soggy.
- Because most bulb growth takes place after flowering, let the foliage remain undisturbed until it chooses to die down, even if it's not all that pretty in its final throes.
- No tying it up or tucking it beneath other plants' leaves either, as is sometimes recommended for hiding the foliage out of sight. The leaves need light to fatten up their attendant bulbs.
- Daffodils do not need this digging and dividing operation every year, which is one reason they are among the best bulbs for naturalizing.
- Don't begrudge them the operation when it is finally needed, for you can never have too many daffodils.

Baby bulbs like to snuggle

ISTOCK

As a daffodil bulb gets older, baby bulbs, called offsets, develop snuggled up against its side. You can picture this most clearly if you realize that a daffodil bulb is, essentially, a compressed stem. That stem is the "plate" at the base of the bulb, and the leaves are the fleshy scales up and around it.

These daffodil bulbs have multiplied so much that they're too crowded to keep flowering well. LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Artist's rendering.

Riverside Living in Vancouver

Shoreline by Polygon – a rare collection of concrete waterfront residences at Vancouver's River District. Situated along the sunny banks of the Fraser River, this sophisticated community is just minutes from Metrotown, Richmond and downtown Vancouver. Everything you need is here and more is coming, including new parks, restaurants and an impressive town centre retail district.

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Let nature have its way with your lawn. Wildflowers, native species are alternatives to traditional grass turf

It's the time of year when homeowners devote countless hours to keeping their lawns lush and green only to have watering restrictions imposed by many municipalities later in the season — causing lawns to dry out and maybe even turn brown.

All that time and labour invested in keeping a lawn green with sometimes a disappointing outcome is leading many homeowners to consider alternatives.

Christian Barnard, owner of Victoria's Christian Barnard Land Studio, says many of his clients are beginning to ask him about options other than traditional turf.

Biodiversity

"I think a lot of the clients I have now are looking for something that is more biodiverse, because they equate turf with high resource input," says Barnard. "When homeowners think of turf, they think of lawn mowers and Weed Eaters, and so they should to a certain degree."

Even though many properties traditionally have landscapes dominated by lawn, Barnard says it may not always be the most viable option. One of his clients trained dogs in her 15-by-15-metre plot of grass. In her case turf was never going to be a long-lasting or easy-care option, and he recommended artificial or synthetic turf.

Synthetic turf

"Synthetic turf has come a long, long way, and it is amazing how real it can look. But if I had my way I tend to steer a lot of my clients into a more biodiverse option for turf," he says.

Wild flowers

Barnard trained in the United Kingdom before coming to Victoria, and he says he was recommending to a lot of clients to let their turf lawns naturalize, which means reducing the mowing and trimming, and allowing native wildflowers to return. He also says he used a wildflower seed mix instead of turf.

"Sometimes I tell clients that turf wouldn't be bad in certain situations, but why do we have to keep it trimmed to a quarter-inch all the time?" he says "Why don't they let it naturalize and allow for spontaneous species to pop up and bees can come in and enjoy it. One man's weed is another man's flower."

Embrace weeds

With 171 municipalities across Canada, and all of Ontario and Quebec, banning pesticide and herbicide use, a certified horticulturalist says homeowners have to develop a tolerance for weeds in their lawns.

"People are looking at their lawns and what was the status quo and realizing they can't have the green weed-free lawn anymore, and looking for alternatives," says Jason Erb, owner of Victoria's The Gardeners of Oliphant.

Garden beds

The easiest alternative for homeowners looking to move away from turf is to reduce the overall amount. Erb says this can be done by increasing the size of garden beds to cut down on the amount of lawn to maintain.

Hardscaping

Introducing hardscaping like patios and pathways is another option for reducing lawn space, and Erb says pathways can add flow to a backyard.

Grow edibles

"The other alternative is veggies and pushing the need for edibles in a landscape," he says.

"A lot of people will say they don't have space for a veggie garden, and then you look out and 80 per cent of their landscape is lawn."

Erb says he encourages homeowners to carve out segments of a large turf lawn to create raised beds and plant fruit trees and even berry bushes like blueberries and raspberries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greener than grass

"One man's weed is another man's flower."

Christian Barnard, owner of Victoria, B.C.'s Christian Barnard Land Studio

Allowing a lawn to naturalize rather than constantly maintaining a traditional turf lawn is an alternative some experts recommend.

ALL PHOTOS CHRISTIAN BARNARD LAND STUDIOS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hardscaping like pathways and patios are one way to reduce lawn space.

Replacing grass with wildflower seed mix brings bees and biodiversity.

Carve out segments of large lawns to plant fruit trees and even berry bushes.

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Pros dish dirt on how to get the most from your garden

Cream of the crop. Small garden? Limited water? Try these horticultural tips to help plot thicken

How can you get the most yield from a garden where space is limited, and water is too?

Plant smart, and pay attention to the soil.

"Your garden is only as good as your soil," says David Salman, chief horticulturist at High Country Gardens, a Santa Fe, N.M., catalogue that specializes in native and low-water plants.

Find out what nutrients your soil has, and what it's missing, with a soil test. Labs across the country offer this service.

Encourage plant health by fertilizing with natural, organic fertilizers, which include fish emulsion and liquid seaweed, says Salman.

Limit the use of chemical fertilizers because they don't help build the soil.

"You will have more nutritionally complete vegetables if you have healthy soil," he promises.

Healthy soil trick

One trick Salmon recommends, especially for gardeners living in new housing developments, is adding a soil inoculant called mycorrhiza, a beneficial fungi. It's found naturally in healthy soil, but often needs to be added to a new garden.

"New gardens in new subdivisions, their soil is scraped off as part of construction," says Salman. "You need to put beneficial fungi back in."

Peas, beans and soybeans could benefit from legume inoculants, which are species-specific (a soybean inoculant cannot be used to improve peas' growth). Read product labels carefully or ask your gardening centre for assistance.

"Your beans will do OK (without it), but if you really want to crank out the beans, you can do that with the inoculant," says Salman. "It's kind of a 'grandma's secret' to growing great beans."

Vine and dandy

Plants that can offer high yields with low watering include leafy vegetables such as kale, lettuce and spinach; beans, snow peas and sugar snap peas; and some varieties of cucumbers and squash, he says.

Plant vining beans and peas if you have space or can grow them up a fence or trellis; plant bush beans and peas in large pots if space is limited.

Sarah J. Browning, an extension educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, suggests planting radishes, carrots, peppers, zucchini and summer squash for summertime bounty.

Peppers grow well in dry conditions, says Browning, and root crops such don't need frequent watering.

Mulch for moisture

"If you watered them well and then mulched them, I think you could get a crop with fairly small amounts of water input," she says.

Plant radishes early in the season or in part shade, and mulch them and other plants to retain moisture and combat weeds.

Browning recommends the cherry tomato cultivar Sun Gold and the slicers Big Beef and Celebrity as great-tasting high producers.

Also look for disease-resistant tomato varieties, which are easier to grow. Browning refers tomato lovers to Pennsylvania State University's College of Agricultural Sciences Extension's "Tomato Report 2011," which lists the best varieties in its tomato trials.

Melissa Ozawa, a features editor for gardening at Martha Stewart Living magazine, recommends growing okra and Swiss chard; both are heat- and drought-tolerant. Melons also can handle less water once established because of their deep root systems, she says.

Read seed packets

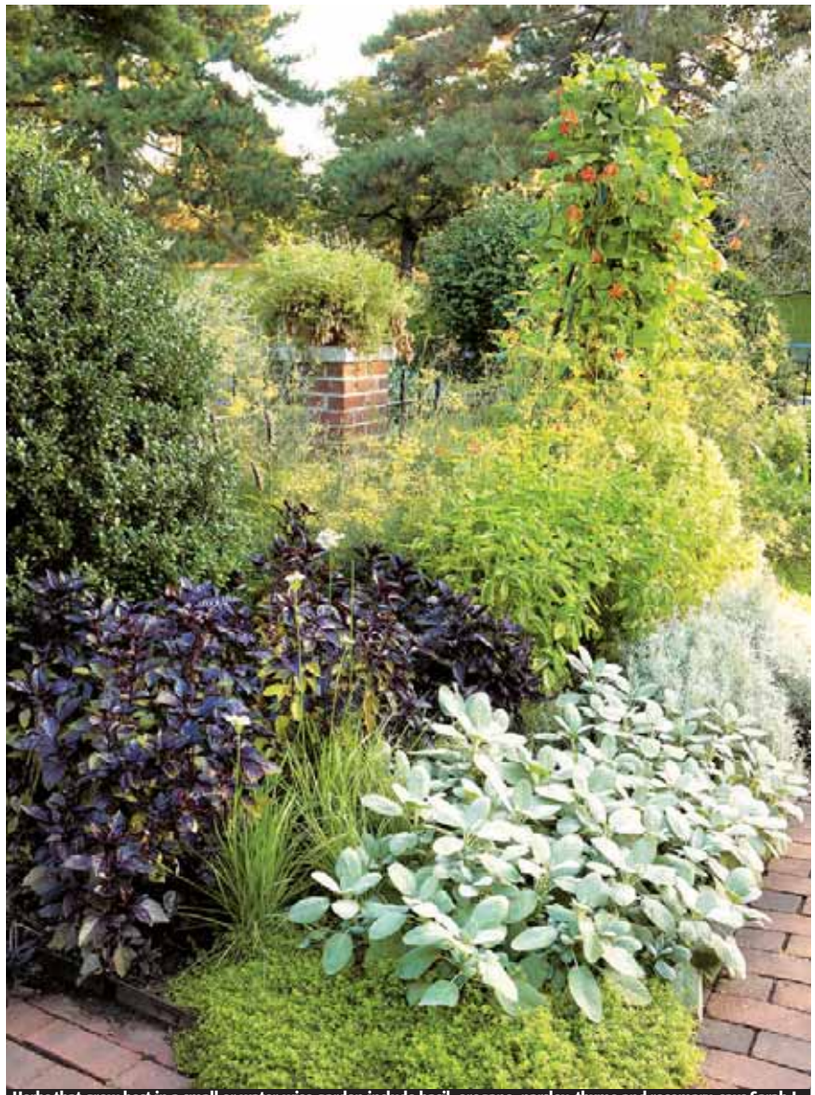
Not all vegetables grow well in all regions, so read seed packets, matching days to maturation to your region's growing season, Salman advises.

"One of the big problems with horticulture in this country is everyone tries to be one-size-fits-all, and this is just too big a continent to do that," he says.

"You don't want to grow a 120-day watermelon in Denver.

"They can grow those in Texas, but the maturation period in Denver is much shorter."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Herbs that grow best in a small or water-wise garden include basil, oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary, says Sarah J. Browning, an extension educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who also suggests planting radishes, carrots, peppers, zucchini and summer squash for summertime bounty. JOHNNY MILLER/MARTHA STEWART LIVING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Herb your enthusiasm

Prolific, water-wise herbs include basil, oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary, says Sarah J. Browning.

- David Salman offers space-saving planting tips for herbs: Plant lavender and oregano along the dryer edges of your garden, since they're the most heat-tolerant, and plant Greek oregano and dill, plus annual herbs such as basil and cilantro, among the root vegetables.
- Try growing perennials such as rosemary, English thyme, tarragon and lavender in your ornamental beds. They don't require your vegetable garden's mineral-rich soil, says Salman.

Cutting-edge blooms

Drought-tolerant flower varieties include coneflowers, hummingbird mint, salvia and blanket flowers, according to Melissa Ozawa. Other cutting-garden winners are cosmos, zinnias, sunflowers and larkspur, says David Salman. His favourite late-season bloomer is the Mexican sunflower.

- "If there's a bee or butterfly in a 10-mile radius, they'll find that Mexican sunflower," he says.

Make a green sweep

A National Park Service worker tends to the White House kitchen garden on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, in the photo at the right, during a preview for the media of the Spring Garden Tour.

Plants that can offer high yields with low watering include leafy vegetables such as kale, lettuce and spinach; beans, snow peas and sugar snap peas; and some varieties of cucumbers and squash.

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Homeowners can create functional and beautiful outdoor living spaces by treating the exterior like the interior, incorporating design elements from rooms in the home. LARRY MYERS/CONTRIBUTED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extend indoor decor outdoors for seamless summer living

Patio, deck or yard. Making connections between inside and outside adds design flair

With the sun shining and weather warming up, most homeowners want to spend more time outside on their patios and decks. But instead of just putting up an umbrella and calling it a day, Larry Myers recommends homeowners consider their outdoor space as an extension of their interior.

Myers, designer and owner of Victoria's Alfresco Living Design, says his philosophy when it comes to creating outdoor living spaces is seeing a patio or deck that looks like any other room in the house.

Go with the flow

"I think there should be very smooth transitions and continuity between indoor and outdoor spaces," says Myers. "There should be efficiency and good flow to support people moving and navigating between the spaces."

Whether it is a smaller condo deck or a large home patio, Myers starts by looking inside for how someone has chosen to lay out the interior and the views of windows to the outside.

"I look at the interior decor and the residential architecture, and I try to bring those attributes that connect spaces from architectural to personal style," he says.

Think big

Regardless of the space, Myers says the main thing people overlook when creating their outdoor living space is the scale of the area.

"The tendency for most people is to underscale," he says. "People should look at scale and how things properly fit into the space, and I think that is one of the mistakes people usually make, is that they underscale."

Myers says people also don't usually deal with the vertical spaces.

"It's about using the space to its fullest," he says.

Create backyard rooms

Like Myers, Candace Mallette, landscape designer and owner of Candace Mallette Landscape and Garden Design in the Ottawa area, says homeowners should approach their backyard as they would a house by creating rooms that serve different functions.

"Design your yard into rooms," she says. "You could create an area where you'd barbecue, a service area tucked away that isn't visually where you'd see with your clothes line and shed, and then maybe a patio for dining with a small reading area. If you put different rooms in your backyard that works really well."

Keep it private

While the actual design and layout of an outdoor space can be difficult, Mallette says one of the biggest concerns she addresses from homeowners is around privacy.

The position and size of many residential lots means many homeowners are dealing with neighbours on either side, and Mallette says a raised deck can decrease privacy by creating the feeling that a homeowner is too exposed when they are enjoying their outdoor space.

"One of the solutions we came up for clients with concerns about privacy is that we try to encourage them to go with a patio right down on the ground because you aren't raised up feeling like you're on display," she says.

"A patio that is low to the ground also creates more of an intimate space. If the deck is already created and it is a large deck, we do try to encourage people to do an easy fix like large planters in groups. Large tall tropical palms can almost create a screen or a wall that they can use." THE CANADIAN PRESS

How does your balcony grow?

Even a small outdoor space can be turned into an oasis

Beautiful outdoor living spaces aren't just limited to those with big backyards. David Amodeo, owner of Empire Landscaping and Garden Services in Victoria, B.C., says any balcony or patio can be transformed into an outdoor oasis by adding a few things.

"Lots of people like artificial grass so they can take their socks and shoes off," he says. "Potted plants work very well on balconies.

"Herb gardens, leafy greens, strawberries, blueberries and tomatoes are just a small sample of what food grows well on balconies provided it gets some sun, and even without any sun you can use hostas or ferns." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Potted plants are a perfect way to brighten tight places. ISTOCK

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Consumer Reports. The state of smart home products is disappointing

Vulnerable to hackers

First and foremost, the publication is concerned about the added vulnerability of connecting devices such as door locks and lights to a home's Wi-Fi network. A good hacker or a bad password is potentially all it would take to gain entry to a connected home.

The influential U.S. publication is less than impressed with most connected home and smart appliances, including the market's current poster child, the Nest learning thermostat.

Consumer Reports put a host of connected home products through their paces to find out which ones are easy to use and reliable, which ones need improving, and which ones should be avoided altogether.

And the results will make depressing reading for anyone involved in the smart home market.

The in-depth report, which also thoroughly reviews and rates a number of individual products on sale, is critical of the Nest thermostat and the Nest Protect smoke alarm because according to existing users they are still "buggy" and problematic.

The conclusion appears to be that the market and the products on offer are still both at a very immature stage and therefore it's too early for the majority of consumers to take a gamble on a smart or connected home device.

AFP

Well connected

$50

One of the few products it does recommend is the Connected by TCP light system, which for $50 will allow users to remotely control and manage the lighting in their home.

Connected home devices are still at an immature stage, according to a recent report. LOLOSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Will the Butterfleye take flight?

Crowdfunding clever camera. Smart Butterfleye senses when to take pictures, making it a promising home security device

Equal parts guard dog and personal photographer, it's a camera with a quirky name that is focused as much on home security and peace of mind as it is on life logging, and its creators are hoping it can crowdfund its way into consumers' homes.

As a proposition, the Butterfleye is quite clever as it manages to tap into a number of emerging consumer tech trends: the quantified self, smart homes, life logging and the selfie. And of course, there's an app involved.

A small, wireless, battery-powered stills and video camera with some clever algorithms and technologies running in the background, the Butterfleye is there to inconspicuously and automatically capture all of those Kodak moments that life throws forth. No need to reach for the DSLR, camcorder or smartphone, the Butterfleye "recognizes" when something's happening and starts snapping.

It also eradicates the current photo-based problems of group shots that are always missing one person — the one holding the camera; and worse still, the posed shots when the camera is on a timer and everyone has 10 seconds to get into position.

The Butterfleye's shots should always be clear and in focus, too. It packs a proximity sensor, has facial recognition for pulling focus, and is calibrated to shoot in low light without a flash.

The stills and HD videos it captures are saved to its internal disk and can also be uploaded to the cloud. The device's makers will be offering cloud storage as an optional extra when the camera officially goes on sale in 2015.

But regardless of where the snaps are saved, using the supporting iPhone app makes it easy to view and download them again and of course to share them via any number of social networks.

The device is already available for pre-order via the company's site for $149, an early adopter special price, $50 less than its planned retail price.

As well as snagging pre-orders that won't be fulfilled for another 12 months, Butterfleye will also be looking to crowdfunding to bring the device to the masses and to increase awareness.

AFP

Master of surveillance

"Butterfleye gives you instant access to what's going on in your home no matter where you are."

Ben Nader, founder and CEO, Butterfleye

Butterfleye, the smart, social and connected camera and its smartphone app make a novel home security system. BUSINESS WIRE

I spy with my Butterfleye

Where the Butterfleye could come into its own is as a surveillance and remote communication device.

- Users can get a live video feed of what's happening at home simply by launching the smartphone app, no matter where in the world they are.
- "Butterfleye gives you instant access to what's going on in your home no matter where you are. It will not only send you pictures and videos that you can share via social media, but will allow you to take a live look inside your home whenever you want, giving you peace of mind that your loved ones and valuables are safe," said Ben Nader, founder and CEO, Butterfleye.
- The same technology that helps the camera recognize when an exciting social happening is unfolding also helps it understand when to snap into action as a surveillance device. Rather than filming constantly day and night, its learning software enables it to understand when people are at home and when they're out.
- Its sensors mean that the camera automatically starts snapping and filming again when a person or a pet enters a room that was empty. The device can also be triggered when it registers certain sounds.
- And in terms of audio, it can be used for two-way communication. So, like with a long-distance intercom, a user can tune in and talk to and see the rest of the family if stuck in traffic or away on business. And the same goes for uninvited guests. You can ask an intruder what they're doing in your lounge from a safe distance.
- This intelligence that allows it to sit dormant or spring into action means that the battery should last a full two weeks between charges and also means that like a smartphone or camera, it could conceivably be used on the go — say in the garden or at a picnic. Just sit it in a good position and focus on having fun.

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Superman hangs up cape, calls it a career

Geroy Simon. Lions GM Wally Buono has no regrets about trading the league's all-time leading receiver

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Geroy Simon announces his retirement from the CFL at a press conference in Regina on Wednesday. The league's all-time leader in receiving yards spent 12 years playing for the Lions. MICHAEL BELL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's part of professional sports.

Trading players from one team to another is commonplace in this world. Even those who exceed star status to become beloved members of a community are not immune to this.

In January of 2013, the B.C. Lions traded Geroy Simon to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, after he and general manager Wally Buono couldn't agree on the role in the offence for the then-37-year-old receiver.

The prospect of Simon being traded had been brewing for days by that point. It seemed inevitable. But it was still stunning when it happened.

This was Geroy Simon, only the league's all-time leader in receiving yards at the time and revered by fans after 12 years in B.C.

On Wednesday, Simon officially announced his retirement after 15 seasons in the Canadian Football League.

His playing career finishes with three Grey Cup titles, 1,029 catches for 16,352 yards and 103 touchdowns.

He also goes out as a champion, scoring two touchdowns in Saskatchewan's victory at the 101st Grey Cup last November — "Let's just say it was fitting," said Buono.

The split between the Lions and Simon seemed amicable enough.

Simon, from Johnstown, Pa., felt he still had more to give, and wanted the chance to prove it. Buono has no regrets about the trade.

"Sometimes it seems very cold and very callous because you disregard what the individual has done for you, whether it's 10 years, 12 years, 15 years," Buono told Metro.

"For Geroy, he went to a team and helped them to win a Grey Cup, so you have to say that his goals were accomplished also."

Together, Buono and Simon won two championships in B.C.

Simon's teammates lauded him as a true professional.

The fans loved him for what he did on the field, including his Superman pose that became his trademark touchdown celebration. They also loved him for building roots in the community.

"I think sometimes players achieve and they lose sight of who they really are," said Buono. "To me, Geroy never lost sight of who he was and where he came from."

Quoted

"I think sometimes players achieve and they lose sight of who they really are. To me, Geroy never lost sight of who he was and where he came from."

Lions GM Wally Buono on now-retired receiver and former Lion Geroy Simon

Royal recovery nets Kings OT win

Justin Williams is mobbed by his Kings teammates after he scored in overtime to beat the Rangers in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final in Los Angeles on Wednesday. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Justin Williams scored 4:36 into overtime as the Los Angeles Kings rallied to edge the New York Rangers 3-2 in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final on Wednesday.

Dan Girardi fanned on a clearing attempt and the puck went to Mike Richards, who found Williams alone in front and the forward scored high to the stick side.

After going down 2-0 early, the Kings tied it up in the second period and came on like a freight train in the third period — outshooting New York 20-3. But the Rangers threatened late in a wild ending to regulation time.

New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist and the Kings' Jonathan Quick both lived up to their reputations on the night, with Quick busy early and Lundqvist late in an end-to-end game.

Benoit Pouliot and Carl Hagelin scored for the Rangers before a crowd of 18,399, the Kings' 118th straight sellout.

Kyle Clifford and Drew Doughty scored for Los Angeles, which trailed 2-0 in the first period.

Game 2 goes Saturday at the Staples Center with advantage Los Angeles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS

Caps seek third straight road win

The Vancouver Whitecaps are feeling it these days.

That probably has a lot do with the club's recent 4-3 victory in Portland — it's Vancouver's first ever win against the Timbers since joining MLS in 2011. It could be their current six-game point streak, which also includes a pair of wins away from the home confines of BC Place Stadium.

These are good times.

The Whitecaps head back out on the road for Saturday's match against the Philadelphia Union.

Despite their recent string of positive results in MLS competition, the Whitecaps remain fourth in the Western Conference with a 5-2-5 record and 20 points. Real Salt Lake, second in the West, is four points ahead.

The Timbers, sitting eighth in the conference, are four points behind Vancouver.

Margin for error is slim, especially at this time of the year and given recent back-to-back late-season collapses from the Vancouver side.

The Union is eighth in the Eastern Conference with a 3-7-5 record.

"It's important they just keep in good frame of mine," head coach Carl Robinson told reporters following Wednesday's training session at UBC.

"Because after the result on the weekend, it's important we go in with confidence, which we will, but knowing it's a difficult game." CAM TUCKER/METRO

World Cup

Ronaldo hobbling ahead of Brazil

Portugal says forward Cristiano Ronaldo has tendinitis in his left leg to go with a left leg muscle injury as the team prepares for its World Cup opener on June 16 against Germany.

Ronaldo helped Real Madrid win the Champions League last month despite being hampered by leg injuries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo GETTY IMAGES

Cristiano Ronaldo is unquestionably one of the top individual talents of 2014. Scan the image to see some of history's best World Cup performers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
What happens today may convince you that you have allowed yourself to be lulled into a false sense of security but even if it's true it is no big deal. You're smart enough to handle whatever fate sends your way.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you trying to do everything the hard way? Not only is it unnecessary but it could also be self-defeating. Be who you are, not who you think others want you to be.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A challenge will confront you today but you will overcome it with ease. Take action quickly and don't doubt for a moment that you will succeed. Good things are coming your way.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is important that you think things through carefully today. There is a danger that you will act hastily and regret it later, so slow down, think about what it is you want to do and work slowly towards that goal.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will happen today to make you wonder if you've been too hasty in reaching certain conclusions. Just because some people have a way of life that is radically different to your own does not make them bad.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may feel as if you're under the thumb at home and work, but there is no point getting stressed about it. Wait for the cosmic outlook to change, which it should do any day.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You're in an adventurous mood but this may not be the best time to venture into areas you don't know about. Wait until the full moon on the 13th has come and gone before moving out of your comfort zone.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Stay calm and keep telling yourself that everything will turn out right in the end. Above all don't allow yourself to get worked up about money matters. There is no reason at all to fear the worst.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Things may get bumpy over the next day or two but if you sit tight the turbulence will pass. If others want to throw tantrums that's up to them. You are under no obligation to follow their example.

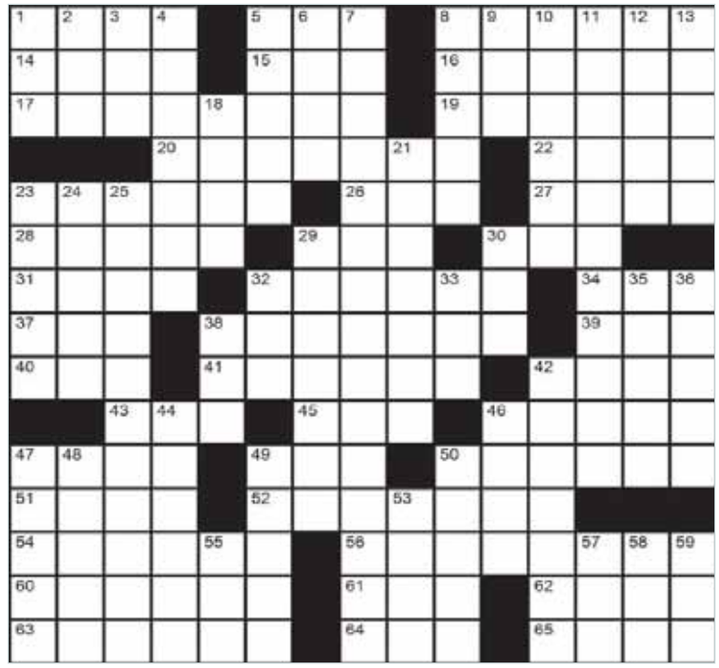
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Current influences highlight the need to be efficient, to get the most from yourself for the least input of time and energy. Pace yourself and look for ways to get from A to B simply.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A clash of egos could get rather heated over the next 24 hours, but the results should be positive. Hopefully it will get you thinking in new and more profitable directions.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your world will be rocked by what happens over the next few days but later you will look back and realize it was all for the best. Ultimately all change is good for you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

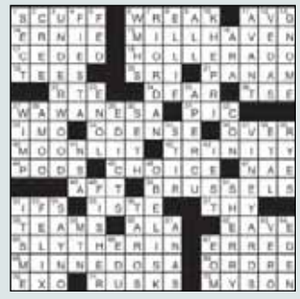
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Hamilton actor, Jonathan __ (b.1924 - d.2012 ...see #17-Across and #11-Down)
5. Pal
8. Book buyer
14. Jane __
15. Mined mineral
16. Refined
17. Vampire on #11-Down, __ Collins (Johnny Depp resurrected the role in the 2012 movie version)
19. Barber's shave-ees
20. Grand
22. Gull-like bird
23. David Bowie's "Space __"
26. Firearm
27. Glimpse
28. "Groovy!"
29. Advantages
30. Grey hue
31. Jealousy
32. Ed of "Modern Family"
34. Basic bug
37. "Take __, _ insist!"
38. "Do the __": Hit for #25-Down
39. Agnus __ (Lamb of God)
40. But, Latin-style
41. Keith Urban hit: 2 wds.
42. Peace bird
43. Roll
45. Feeling flu-ish
46. Strength
47. Mideast chieftain, variantly
49. Crossword band
50. Population count
51. NFL's Ravens city, for short
52. __-Windsor Tunnel
54. Sea __ (Aquatic creature)
56. Yukon's most northerly point, __ Island
60. Meathead's wife
61. "Yikes!"
62. Eddy __ (One of 'The Buyers' on CBC's "Four Rooms")
63. England's ancient invaders
64. Toronto's Yonge, et. al.
65. Safecracker

Down
1. Aquarian's mo.
2. Scandinavian rug
3. Flawed in a way [abbr.]
4. Concentration
5. British police officer
6. Russian river
7. Fare featured on based-in-Toronto channel Fashion Television: 2 wds.
8. Singer/actor Mr. Blades
9. Afore
10. Puts down
11. Gothic series of 1966 to 1971 on which #1-Across starred as the character at #17-Across: 2 wds.
12. Result in: 2 wds.
13. Pronounce once more
18. Manual's opposite
21. Evita or Hair
23. Three Dog Night: "__ __ the loneliest number..."
24. Al __ (Pasta preference)
25. Montreal-born singer/songwriter: 2 wds. (More at #38-Across)
29. How laundry might accumulate: 3 wds.
30. Supermodel Carol
32. War on Poverty agcy.
33. Roman Myth: Household deity
35. Nephew: French
36. Levels
38. Alphabet sequence
42. There, there ...your makeup will run.": 2 wds.
44. Joint: Prefix
46. Shar-__ (Some dogs)
47. "_ __ Life" (1998)
48. Actress Ms. Gibbs
49. Writer Ms. Ferber's
50. Wine stoppers
53. Jackie Wilson's "__ Petite"
55. "Am _ __ your way?"
57. Furrow maker
58. Baby bird's birthplace
59. Account

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		5		7		9	
		5				3		
	2		4		9		6	
	9	3				5	8	
8								9
	4	7				6	3	
	7		3		8		4	
		1				7		
	6		2		1		5	

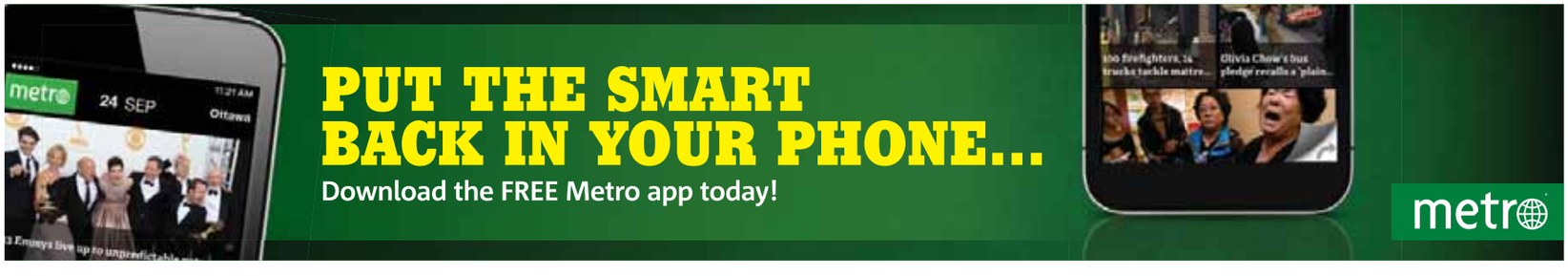
Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	5	7	4	8	6	2
2	7	8	1	6	3	5	9	4
5	4	6	9	2	8	7	1	3
3	2	1	6	4	9	6	5	7
6	9	5	2	1	7	3	4	8
7	8	4	3	5	6	1	2	9
1	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	6
8	5	7	6	9	2	4	3	1
4	6	9	7	3	1	2	8	5

Today
19°/12°
Sunny

Friday
20°/12°
Sunny

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data



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